

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 40-74 are in the case. Claims 1-39 are cancelled. New claims 70-74 are added.

Claim 59 has been amended to cancel matter which has been effectively reintroduced in new claim 70. The term "solid free fluid" has been replaced by the more correct term "fluid used to displace the drilling fluid". New claim 70 depends on claim 50 rather than 40, because claim 50 is the first claim which refers expressly to a "fluid used to displace the drilling fluid".

Basis for new claim 71 can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 1-2 and page 13, line 27. Basis for new claim 72 can be found at page 12, lines 18-20 and 22-24. Basis for new claim 73 can be found at page 12, lines 20-22, and basis for new claim 74 can be found at page 13, lines 25-26.

Favorable action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: /Leonard C. Mitchard/

Leonard C. Mitchard  
Reg. No. 29,009

LCM:lff  
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100